



PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. BRA996971025A
Customer No. 24,951

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: J. Richard Bray)
SERIAL NO.: 09/748,715)
FILED: 12/21/00)
TITLE: AUTOMATED LANGUAGE FILTER)
FOR HOME TV)
ART UNIT: 2176)
EXAMINER:)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to a first Office Action on the merits, please amend the above application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 7, line 33, please delete the following material:

[CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for processing an electronic signal including video and audio portions corresponding to audible and visible portions of the electronic signal, with said audio portion containing a spoken component related to the audible portion and with said video portion]

On page 8, please insert the following:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Prepaid First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 or Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D. C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Date: 4-12-01
Mailer: [Signature]

--CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for processing an electronic signal including video and audio portions corresponding to audible and visible portions of the electronic signal, with said audio portion containing a spoken component related to the audible portion and with said video portion--

CLEAN COPY OF PENDING CLAIMS

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for processing an electronic signal including video and audio portions corresponding to audible and visible portions of the electronic signal, with said audio portion containing a spoken component related to the audible portion and with said video portion containing an auxiliary information component corresponding to a visible representation of said spoken component of said electronic signal comprising:

a video input means to receive video portion of an electronic signal with video portion containing an auxiliary information component,

an audio input means to receive audio portion of an electronic signal with said audio portion corresponding to said video portion,

a video output means by which the video portion of the electronic signal is made available to a user of the apparatus,

an audio output means by which the audio portion of the electronic signal is made available to a user of the apparatus,

means for separating said an auxiliary information component from said video portion,

means for analyzing said auxiliary information component in order to determine if said auxiliary information component contains specific words or phrases, and means for,

muting corresponding audio portion of said electronic signal if specific words or phrases are detected within said auxiliary information

component,

removing or replacing any detected specific word or phrase with another word or phrase found within said auxiliary information component of the video portion,

disabling mute at the conclusion of receipt of the modified auxiliary information component,

means to synchronize said modified video portion with audio portion, and

means to transmit said synchronized signal to said video output and audio output.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said auxiliary information component is a closed caption signal.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electronic signal is a television signal.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electronic signal is a signal received from a storage device such as a video cassette recorder.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for selecting different levels of operation with respect to the muting of specific words or phrases, with said different levels include:

a very tolerant level in which no word or phrase will be muted,

a medium tolerant level in which a select amount of words or phrases will be muted,

a strict level in which the list of specific words or phrases in an amount greater than the medium tolerant level will be muted.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

means for displaying of said modified and/or unmodified auxiliary information component at the time the specific word or phrase is replaced.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

means for selecting different levels of operation with respect to the displaying of said modified auxiliary information component, with said different levels include:

a full captioning level in which all modified or unmodified auxiliary information data is displayed,

a normal captioning level in which only modified words or phrases which represent the replacement words or phrases are displayed,

a no captioning level in which no word or phrase is displayed.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said auxiliary information component is a closed caption signal.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said auxiliary information component is a closed caption signal.

REMARKS

Following entrance of the present amendment, the specification has been amended to commence the claims on a separate sheet in the application. A clean copy of the pending claims is included in this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicant respectfully defers submission of new drawings or a petition for acceptance of photographs until receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully believes the present application to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matter of form or language which stands in the way of examination of the present application, the undersigned hereby respectfully requests a telephone conference to resolve such issues.

Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment in fees associated with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 08-1500.

Respectfully submitted,

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

By 

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Date: April 17, 2001